

## **Legislative Transition Task Force - Siting -**

**Environmental Reviews & Approvals  
Department of Environmental Quality  
October 16, 2001**

### **DEQ Reviews or Approvals**

- **Environmental Impact Review for SCC**
- **Water Quality Permits**
- **Air Pollution Control Permits**

## Environmental Impact Review

- SCC required to consider environmental impacts in making siting decision (§56-46.1)
- Coordinated by DEQ through the state environmental impact review network
  - DEQ, VDACS, CBLAD, DCR, DOF, DGIF, VDH, DHR, DMME, VIMS, VMRC, VDOT, planning district commissions, localities
- Results provide information on
  - avoidance and minimization of impacts
  - environmental requirements/approvals required
- Timing: Average = 57 days    Range = 15-64 days

## VPDES Permits

(Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits)

- Issued for discharges to state waters
  - primary discharge from power plants is cooling water
  - Water Quality Standard potentially impacted is temperature
- Permit Requirements
  - Treatment and monitoring to ensure protection of Water Quality Standards
  - Must demonstrate consistency with local zoning prior to submitting application to DEQ
  - Subject to public comment and possible public hearing

## VPDES Permits cont'd.

- Processing time
  - Average = 168 days
  - Range = 50-512 days
- Processing time includes:
  - Review by EPA (majors)
  - Publication and public comment
  - Public hearing (if requested)

## VWP Permits

(Virginia Water Protection Permits)

- Issued for wetland impacts and facilities requiring federal 404 permits
- Permit requirements
  - Avoidance, minimization and compensatory mitigation for wetland impacts
  - Maintenance of minimum instream flows
- Processing time
  - average = 180 days (for power generating units involving more than wetland impacts)
  - statutory maximum for wetland impacts = 120 days
  - general permit coverage available in < 45 days for small impacts to wetlands

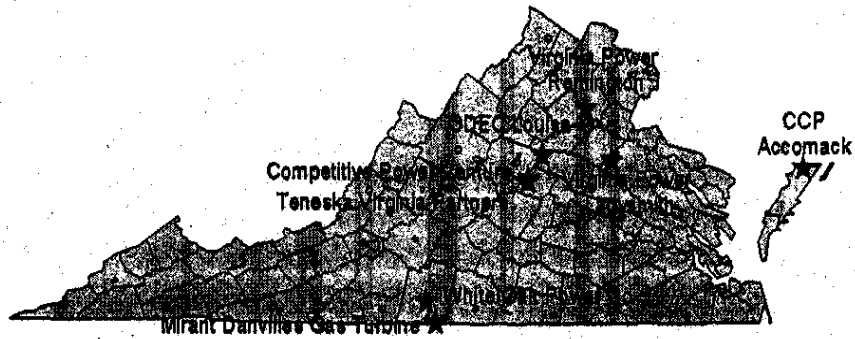
## Air Pollution Control Permits

- Requirements and type of permit varies based upon emission amounts and location
- Permit requirements:
  - compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards
  - Best available pollution control technology (BACT)
  - Must demonstrate consistency with local zoning prior to submitting application to DEQ (majors)
  - Subject to public comment and possible public hearings prior to permit issuance (majors)

## Air Quality Impact Analysis

- Cumulative impacts from potential emissions from Power Plants
  - must be modeled prior to the issuance of any PSD permit.
  - DEQ has been preparing regional models for all applications on a periodic basis
  - Latest model run 10/01 with 8 new plants
  - Results show negligible cumulative impact
  - Permits cannot be issued if emissions would result in a violation of National Ambient Air Quality Standards
- State Advisory Board on Air Pollution Study of cumulative impacts and recommendations due November 2001

## Locations of the Eight Proposed Power Plants Modeled 10/2001



## Ground Level Ozone Concentration Increase

with eight proposed power plants



Min= 0.0 at (1,14) Max= 2.0 at (47,33)

## **Air Permits - PSD**

**(Prevention of Serious Degradation)**

- For facilities with potential to emit > 250 tpy
- Processing Time:
  - average time (from complete app.) = 50 days
  - range of time = 24-81 days
  - typical total time from initial consultation to permit issuance = 11-12 months
- Local approval required prior to application
- Subject to public comment and public hearings
- Subject to review by EPA and Federal Land Managers

## **Air Permits - State Major Source**

- For facilities with the potential to emit 100-250 tpy
- Processing Time:
  - average = 86 days
  - range = 82 - 93 days
- Local approval required prior to application
- Subject to public comment and possible public hearings
- No review by EPA or Federal Land Managers